crease public investment in agriculture so as to achieve the targeted growth rate in agriculture. These two schemes are expected to go a long way in operationalising many of the provisions of the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 through state specific de-centralized strategy taking into account the agro-climatic and other local conditions for development of agriculture and allied sectors.

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

†1556. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering on simplification and effective implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In pursuant to the Union Budget Announcement for 2007-08 a pilot Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) has already been implemented during Kharif, 2007.Rabi 2007-08 in selected areas/crops in the States of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. The scheme insures farmers against the likelihood of financial loss on account of anticipated loss in crop yield resulting from adverse incidence of weather conditions. The scheme is simple and provides quick compensation to farmers, as it is based on weather indices. The scheme will be continued during Kharif, 2008.

Food Processing Units in Orissa

1557. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, on account of lack of food-processing units in certain districts of Orissa, the farmers have been forced to sell their maize produce at throw-away prices and rains have further played spoilsport for corn farmers of KBK region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of the Centre to help the backward Orissa State both physically and financially to address the above long-standing grievance of the beleaguered farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No information on the farmers of certain districts of Orissa having been forced to sell their maize produce at throw-away prices due to lack of processing units has been received. However, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has procured 2400 Metric Tonnes of maize in the scheduled districts of Orissa in the State Government account at Minimum Support Price (MSP) of 620/- per quintal during Kharif-2007-08 season.

Further, in order to promote food processing industries in the country, Government of India is providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for setting up of food

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.